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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action mailed April 26, 2007, claims 1-9 were rejected. Additionally, claims 1, 7, and 9 were objected to. In response, Applicant has amended claims 1, 7, and 9, and added claims 10-13. Applicant hereby requests reconsideration of the application in view of the amended claims, the added claims, and the below-provided remarks.

I. Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 9 were objected to because the first node (23,36) was wrongly referred to as (23,26). Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to recite (23,36) and the typographical error stands corrected.

Claim 7 is objected to under the logic that "the output loads" is unclear or lacks antecedent basis. Claim 7 has been amended and the term "the" has been removed from "the output loads." Applicant would like to draw attention to paragraph [0022], lines 7-12 wherein it is stated that "the second current source 30 is identical to the said first current source, preferably including the output load." With respect to the output load, it is commented that in a system, components such as a cable line, an antenna, etc, will be connected to the output nodes 23, 36." Further, paragraph [0022] lines 14-15 state clearly that downstream of the output nodes 23, 36, "a further component will register the output signal. These components put a load on the digital to analog converter, and are referred to as the "output load"." Thus, support for claim 7 is found in the specification as "output loads" is/are defined clearly, and by way of examples as well.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1 – 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Curry et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,794,924, hereinafter Curry).

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites:

"A digital to analog converter comprising a first current source (3) connected to a plurality of common lines (20,21) and to a first node (23,36), wherein said first node (23,36) forms an output of the digital to analog converter via a respective

switch (35, 38, 46) whose state is controlled in accordance with a first applied digital signal (28,31) to be converted, the digital to analog converter further comprising a second current source (30) which is associated with said first current source (3), wherein said second current source (30) is *connected to at least one of said common lines (20,21) and to a second node (26,37) via a respective second switch (39) whose state is controlled in accordance with a second applied digital signal (29,32), characterized in that second applied digital signal (29,32) causes said second respective switch (39) to change state such that influences on at least said one of said common lines (20,21) caused by said first and second switches (38,39) switching are periodic.*" (emphasis added)

Applicant asserts that claim 1 is not anticipated by Curry for the following reasons.

Curry does not disclose a first current source connected to a plurality of common lines

Curry discloses actual and dummy current sources connected to actual and dummy switches respectively. The line 130 referred to in the Office Action is the line connecting the actual current source to the actual switch. The lines (20,21) recited in claim 1, and with which an analogy is drawn, are power lines that supply power to the current source. Thus the reference to lines (20,21) of applicant's teaching, and comparison to line 130 is erroneous. Because Curry does not disclose "a first current source (3) connected to a plurality of common lines (20,21)" as recited in claim 1, Applicant asserts that claim 1 is not anticipated by Curry.

Curry does not disclose a second current source which is associated with a first current source

Claim 1 recites "a second current source (30) which is associated with said first current source." Curry discloses the association between an actual switch driver and a dummy switch driver. However, there is nothing in the cited reference to indicate an association between the first and second current source. Applicant thus asserts that claim 1 is not anticipated by Curry because Curry does not disclose "a second current source (30) which is associated with said first current source" as recited in claim 1.

Curry does not disclose a second current source that is connected to at least one of said common lines

Claim 1 recites current sources connected to "...at least one common line..." Curry discloses that "the first and second current sources 180, 190 provide different levels of electrical current to the actual and dummy switch 130, 150 respectively." (col. 3, lines 50-53). Curry further discloses that "the second current source 190 may provide a current that is less than that provided by the first current source 180 by approximately an order of magnitude." (col. 3, lines 66-67). Thus, Curry only discloses two current sources with different levels of electrical current. Curry does not disclose that these two current sources, which provide different levels of electrical current, are connected to "at least one of said common lines." Finally, the arrow line referred to in the Office action does not disclose, or lead a person skilled in the art to conclude that the current sources are connected to a common line, especially in light of the fact that Curry discloses current sources providing different levels of electrical current. Because Curry does not disclose current sources connected to "...at least one common line..." as recited in claim 1, Applicant thus asserts that claim 1 is not anticipated by Curry.

Dependent Claims 2 – 8

Dependent claims 2 – 8 depend from claim 1. Applicant asserts that these claims are allowable at least based on an allowable base claim. Additionally, Applicant asserts that Curry does not disclose "a power supply (9) to which said first current source (3) and said second current source are connected (30)" as recited in claim 3. Curry also does not disclose that first and second current sources are disposed adjacent to each other or that first and second digital input lines are arranged in parallel, as recited in claims 4 and 5, respectively. Further, Curry does not disclose output loads as being substantially matched, as recited in claim 7.

Independent Claim 9

Independent claim 9 includes similar limitations to claim 1. Although the language of claim 9 differs from the language of claim 1 and the scope of claim 9 should be interpreted independently of claim 1, Applicant respectfully asserts that the remarks provided above in regard to claim 1 apply also to claim 9.

New claims 10-13

New claims 10-13 have been added and support for the added claims is found in the specification. Regarding claim 10, support is found, for example, at paragraph [0022] lines 7-8, wherein a first and second current source in a preferred embodiment is disclosed. Regarding claim 11, support is found, for example, at paragraph [0022] lines 12-15, wherein components that register an output signal (output load) are disclosed. Regarding claims 12 and 13, support is found, for example, at paragraph [0022] lines 10-11, wherein it is disclosed that the output load can be a cable line, an antenna, etc.

III. Arrangement of the Specification

Applicant also appreciates the recommendation to follow suggested guidelines for the layout of the specification. However, these guidelines are simply guidelines "suggested for the applicant's use" but not required. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that the arrangement of the specification effectively follows the guidelines, only without the section headings.

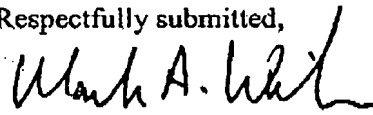
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CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments and remarks made herein. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account 50-3444 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.25. Additionally, please charge any fees to Deposit Account 50-3444 under 37 C.F.R. 1.16, 1.17, 1.19, 1.20 and 1.21.

Respectfully submitted,



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